

THE WARRIOR

The History of Veteran's Day Submitted by: Darrin Reimann, Recreational Therapist

1918

World War I, then normally referred to simply as The Great War (no one could imagine any war being greater!), ended with the implementation of an armistice (temporary cessation of hostilities-in this case until the final peace treaty, the infamous Treaty of Versailles, was signed in 1919) between the Allies and Germany on the eleventh day of November, 1918.

1919

November 11: President Wilson proclaims the first Armistice Day with the following words: "To us in America, the reflections of Armistice Day will be filled with solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in the country's service and with gratitude for the victory, both because of the thing from which it has freed us and because of the opportunity it has given America to show her sympathy with peace and justice in the councils of the nations..." The original concept for the celebration was for the suspension of business for a two minute period beginning at 11 A.M., with the day also marked by parades and public meetings.

1920

On the second anniversary of the armistice, France and the United Kingdom hold ceremonies honoring their unknown dead from the war. In America, at the suggestion of church groups, President Wilson names the Sunday nearest Armistice Day Sunday, on which should be held services in the interest of international peace.

1921

Congress passes legislation approving the establishment of a Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery. November 11 is chosen for the date of the ceremony. According on October 20, Congress declares November 11, 1921 a legal Federal holiday to honor all those who participated in the war. The ceremony was conducted with great success.

1926

Congress adopts a resolution directing the President to issue an annual proclamation calling on the observance of Armistice Day. Throughout the 1920s and 1930s, most states establish November 11 as a legal holiday and at the Federal level, an annual proclamation is issued by the President.

October 2006

Inside this issue:

Star Award	2
Resident Birthdays	3
Social Service News	5
Taps	6
Employee Corner	7
Alzheimer's Week at MVH	8
Grandpa's Hands	11

Special points of Interests:

Upcoming Events on the calendar:

- Church Services
- Bingo
- Octoberfest
- Costume Contest
- Music
- Visits

WARRIOR

October 2006

The WARRIOR is published every other month by the Missouri Veterans' Home-Mexico, MO. Anyone wishing a free subscription may contact the Home at #1 Veterans Drive, Mexico, MO 65265, (573)581-1088.

Hal Dulle, Executive Director Susan Paden, Editor/Typist
Cheryl Tolbert, Administrator

The History of Veteran's Day Continued from page 1

1938

Congress passes legislation on May 13 making November 11 a legal Federal holiday, Armistice Day. The United States has no 'actual' national holidays because the states retain the right to designate their own holidays. The Federal government can in fact only designate holidays for Federal employees and for the District of Columbia. But in practice the states almost always follow the Federal lead in designation of holidays.

1941-1945

1950-1953

World War II and the Korean War create millions of additional war veterans in addition to those of the First World War already honored by Armistice Day.

1954

On June 1, President Eisenhower signs legislation changing the name of the legal holiday from Armistice Day to Veteran's Day.

1968

Congress passes the Monday Holiday Law which established the fourth Monday in October as the new date for the observance of Veteran's Day. The law is to take effect in 1971.

1971-1975

The Federal observance of Veterans Day is held on the fourth Monday of October. Initially all states follow suit except Mississippi and South Dakota. Other states changed their observances back to November 11 as follows: 1972-Louisiana and Wisconsin; 1974-Kentucky, Arkansas, Connecticut, Georgia, Maine, South Carolina, West Virginia; 1975-California, Florida, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Carolina, Utah, West Virginia, Wyoming

1975

Legislation passed to return the Federal observance of Veteran's Day to November 11, based on popular support throughout the nation. Since the change to the fourth Monday in October, 46 states had either continued to commemorate November 11 or had reverted back to the original date based on popular sentiment. The law was to take effect in 1978.

1978

Veteran's Day observance reverts to November 11.

Website: www.army.mil/cmh-pg/faq/vetsday/vetshist.htm

Veteran's Day Remembrance Program is scheduled for November 11th at 1:30 p.m. in the dining room at the facility.

STAR AWARD

CONGRATULATIONS:
Goes to the following employees who won the Star Award for the months of July and August 2006.

Christy Whitworth was drawn for the Star Award for the Month of July 2006.

Christy was nominated by Amanda King for her hard work everyday. Her dedication is appreciated by all co-workers and residents

alike. We can always count on Christy! Thanks for all you do!

Christy your team work means a lot to your co-workers! Good job taking care of the residents.

James Curtis drew this name from the group of stars. Thanks Jim for your help!

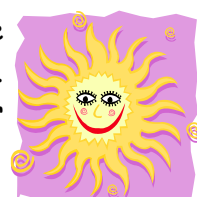
Elizabeth Nichols was drawn for the Star Award

for the month of August 2006.

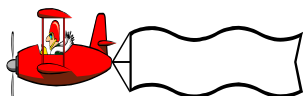
Elizabeth was nominated by Judy Martin for getting trash on 1st floor rooms and modules when she was on light duty! Thanks for all you do!

Thanks for going the extra mile to help your co-workers and providing a clean home for the residents!

Jim Hammann drew the name from the group of stars. Thanks Jim for your help!



New Residents



WELCOME

Mr. Harold West: Mr. West was admitted on August 7, 2006 from Mexico, MO as the 987th resident. He served in the United States Marine Corp from 1943—1945.

Mr. John Frame: Mr. Frame was admitted on August 9, 2006 from Fulton, MO as the 988th resident. He served in the United States Navy from 1946—1948.

Mr. Terry Cook: Mr. Cook was admitted on August 14, 2006 from Viburnum, MO as the 989th resident. He served in the United States Navy from 1974—1976.

Mr. Russell Mansfield: Mr. Mansfield was admitted on August 21, 2006 from Middle Grove, MO as the 990th resident. He served in the United States Navy from 1944—1946.

Mr. Harry E. Bell: Mr. Bell was admitted on August 29, 2006 from Waynesville, MO as the 991st resident. He served in the United States Merchant Marines from 1943—1946.

Mr. Charles Tinker: Mr. Tinker was admitted on September 11, 2006 from Columbia, MO as the 992nd resident. He served in the United States Army from 1952—1960.

Mr. Lester Jackson: Mr. Jackson was admitted on September 12, 2006 from Columbia, MO as the 993rd resident. He served in the United States Army from 1945—1946.

Mr. Edward Whited: Mr. Whited was admitted on September 19, 2006 from Cameron, MO as the 994th resident. He served in the United States Air Force from 1945—1976.

Happy birthday to you... ..



MVH staff and residents would like to wish a "Happy Birthday" to the following residents:

October

Lester Schulte	10/05
Frank Smith	10/05
Dean McCann	10/05
Martin Crawford	10/08
Paul Grainger	10/08
John Smith	10/09
Russell Mansfield	10/10
Bruce Wilson	10/10
Don Williams	10/12
William Conboy	10/16

Joe Serbin	10/17
Garry Stokes	10/18
Bob Young	10/20
Marvin Lehenbauer	10/20
Earl Harris	10/23
David Zumwalt	10/24
James Orf	10/31

November

Glenn Crawford	11/13
Bob Gooch	11/14
Henry Powers	11/14
Bill Cameron	11/30

Lasagna Dinner, Auction & Entertainment

*Hosted by:
Missouri Veterans'
Home—Mexico & Mexico
Elks Lodge #919*

*Friday, October 6,
2006*

*Social 5—6 p.m.
Dinner 6—7 p.m.
Auction begins 7 p.m.
Tickets \$7.50
Proceeds benefit Alzheimer's Association*

DONATIONS



GENERAL:

Norma Barnes & Lola Duffen	\$ 5.00
VFW Post #5923	100.00
VFW Auxiliary #2654	500.00
Ernestine Schumann Heink DAVA #2	50.00
VFW Post #5923	100.00
VFW Post #2657	200.00
Terrace & Farrell Boudinier	100.00

ADOPT-A-VET:

Hermann VFW Auxiliary #4182	\$ 50.00
Callaway VFW Auxiliary #2657	60.00
Audrain Co. VFW Auxiliary #3772	60.00

ACTIVITIES:

Lady Elks Auxiliary #919	\$ 50.00
Mexico Elks Lodge #919	280.00
Grand Lodge of the Elks	70.00
Lincoln Co. VFW Auxiliary #8828	300.00
Bridget Sebastian	25.00
Tieman Blackburn Auxiliary	100.00
Mexico Elks Lodge #919	70.00
Grand Lodge of the Elks	70.00
Grand Lodge of the Elks	70.00

BIBS:

O'Fallon American Legion Auxiliary #388	\$ 100.00
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PATIO DOOR:

Military Order of the Purple Heart-Heart of the Nation Chapter #115	\$ 500.00
Gideon International Mexico Camp	200.00
R.D. Bridgford	300.00

GOLF TOURNAMENT:

Jim Valentik	\$ 240.00
Maribel Westcott	50.00
Jim Bridgford	60.00
Richard Bowen	60.00
Bill Davenport	60.00
Doris Bates	240.00
Jack Davis	60.00
Audrain City County Health Unit	100.00
Eva Leake	180.00
DB's Corner	240.00
Noah Barnes	240.00
Marcus Tolson	120.00
Kenneth Stoddard	60.00
Joel Dubinski	60.00
21st For Skip Elkin	340.00
Westlakes	100.00
S.D. Quisenberry	240.00
Kirk Pickett	240.00
Dwight Campbell	240.00
Pickering Funeral Home	100.00
Dave Harris	240.00

GOLF TOURNAMENT, CON'T.

Steven Wolf	240.00
Mexico Elks Lodge #919	1,440.00
Brookstone	50.00
Mexico Surgical Assoc.	100.00
First National Bank	100.00

BIRTHDAYS:

George Holtkamp, Jr.	\$ 48.00
George Holtkamp, Jr.	110.27

INDIGENT:

Ernest K. Gerhardt VFW Auxiliary #5923	\$ 100.00
American Legion Auxiliary #312	125.00
Ernest K. Gerhardt VFW Auxiliary #5923	100.00
Adair VFW Auxiliary #2508	20.00

MEDICAL EQUIPMENT:

American Legion Auxiliary #312	\$ 515.00
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BINGO:

VFW Auxiliary #3772	\$ 40.00
VFW Post #2173	20.00
VFW Auxiliary #2173	20.00
VFW Auxiliary #3772	37.00
VFW Auxiliary #4088	45.00
VFW Auxiliary #2173	20.00
VFW Post #2173	20.00

BIBLE STUDY:

ABC Club	\$ 10.00
ABC Club	10.00

STAFF DEVELOPMENT:

Betty McFarland	\$ 50.00
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CHRISTMAS PARTY ANNOUNCEMENTS

It is hard to believe but Christmas is just three months away. Christmas party planning is in the works and our committee has a great party planned. So mark your calendars for the following dates: Tuesday, December 12 at 1:30 PM-2nd Floor Residents' Christmas party and Wednesday, December 13 at 1:30-1st and 3rd Floor Residents' Christmas party. Please make plans to join us on those days.

New Protocol Implemented to Help Residents with Swallowing Issues

Submitted by: Jean Howard, Dietitian

Page 5



The Frazier Water Protocol is a guide used to improve hydration and quality of life among people with dysphasia (swallowing problems). It was developed 22 years ago, and has proved to be a simple and safe way to help people who have difficulty swallowing be able to enjoy drinking water again. We now know that aspiration of water is not harmful to people—if water enters the lungs, it is quickly absorbed into the bloodstream. In contrast, other beverages, since they do not have a neutral pH, can cause problems including aspiration pneumonia.

Using the Frazier Water Protocol, residents will be given unthickened water to drink before meals (up until the first bite of food is eaten), and thickened beverages during meals. After meals, it is recommended to wait about 30 minutes—or until all food particles have been cleared from the mouth—before water is given. The reason for this wait is that when food particles remain in the mouth, they can easily flow with the water into the lungs and cause health problems.

The Frazier Water Protocol will improve the quality of life for the residents of the Missouri Veterans' Home. There is no better thirst-quencher than drinking a cool glass of water. And, when people are able to drink “real” (unthickened) water, they will drink more, decreasing the incidence of dehydration.

The MVH-Mexico staff is currently being trained by the speech therapist Tyyna Bailey to use this protocol.

NEWS FROM THE SOCIAL SERVICE DEPARTMENT

*The Alzheimer's Support Group meets the 4th Wednesday of every month in the 3rd floor classroom at 1:30 p.m. and is open to the public. The next meeting is scheduled for Oct. 25.

*When new clothes or personal items are brought into the facility, please be sure they are marked with the resident's name on them. This is very important. If they are not marked and happen to go through the laundry, there is no way of telling where they belong.

*The next Family Council meeting is scheduled for December 20, 2006 at 1:30 p.m. at the facility

*The next Resident Council meeting is scheduled for November 30, 2006 at 9:45 a.m. in the dining room.



MEMORIAL SERVICE

The next Memorial Service will be held
in the dining room on
November 27, 2006 at
9:30 a.m.
Everyone is welcome to
attend.



Recreation News

Submitted by: Kathy Winkelman

Summer is over and the children have gone back to school. We would like to thank all the junior volunteers that assisted the Missouri Veterans' Home this summer. Your help was greatly appreciated.

The recreation department is busy gearing up for the holiday season but here is a sampling of the special events that happened in August and September:

August

- 5-We participated in the Farber Homecoming Parade and ate lunch there
- 8-Attended a movie in Fulton
- 12-Attended the opening ceremony of our annual golf tournament
- 16-Audrey Stevens entertained us with her piano playing
- 19-Attended the Mexico Elks' Air Show at the airport
- 29-Root beer floats
- 30-Gambling trip to Isle of Capri, Boonville
- 31-Picnic in the park

September

- 1-Attended Mexico High School football game
- 9-Family Day
- 13-Attended a St. Louis Cardinal game
- 15-Music by Kay Dutton and friends
- 16-Roaring Thunder motorcycle group visited
- 17-Karaoke with the Williams'
- 21-Hamburger night at the Mexico Elks' club
- 22-Music by Glenn Wallace and friend
- 29-"Take Me Out to the Ballgame" lunch and bingo
- 29-Mexico High School football game

TAPS

The staff and residents of MVH wish to express our deepest condolences to the family and friends of our residents who have passed away recently.



Mr. Thomas Owens: Mr. Owens expired on July 31, 2006. He was admitted on July 25, 2006 as the 986th resident. Mr. Owens served in the United States Air Force from 1948—1952.

Mr. Kenneth Jensen: Mr. Jensen expired on August 8, 2006. He was admitted on May 18, 2005 as the 945th resident. Mr. Jensen served in the United States Army from 1942—1945.

Mr. Walter "Mack" McFarland: Mr. McFarland expired on August 10, 2006. He was admitted on May 3, 2005 as the 942 resident. Mr. McFarland served in the United States Navy from 1946—1948.

Mr. Delmar Luadzers: Mr. Luadzers expired on August 19, 2006. He was admitted on April 18, 2005 as the 939 resident. Mr. Luadzers served in the United States Navy from 1944—1946 and from 1950—1954.

Mr. Charles Armstrong: Mr. Armstrong expired on August 20, 2006. He was admitted on May 10, 2006 as the 968th resident. Mr. Armstrong served in the United States Army from 1943—1946.

Mr. Robert "Bob" Marshall: Mr. Marshall expired on August 29, 2006. He was admitted on March 14, 2005 as the 932nd resident. Mr. Marshall served in the United States Army from 1943—1945.

Mr. William "Dub" Davis: Mr. Davis expired on September 12, 2006. He was admitted on July 30, 2003 as the 870th resident. Mr. Davis served in the United States Army from 1943—1945.

Mr. George Schwark: Mr. Schwark expired on September 16, 2006. He was admitted on February 7, 2005 as the 927th resident. Mr. Schwark served in the United States Army from 1943—1946.



MEMORIALS

In memory of Kenneth Jensen: Lozina Frank, Joyce Shepherd, Tom & Janice Frank, Audrey Stevens, Glenda Bishop Loehr, Kim Bishop, Mary, Wayne, John & James Goddard, R-3 Doors Bowling Team, Charles & Barbara Greenburg, Alwin & Evelyn Rodemeyer, Ken Jensen Family, William H. McClain

In memory of Dennis Cruts: Mr. & Mrs. Paul Adams, Gary & Patty Heldt, Dept. of Health Co-Workers—Jefferson City, Ralph Frye, Emily Smith, Margaret Bahr

In memory of Robert Marshall: Louisiana Boat Club, Karen, Sharon & Donna Caldwell

In memory of Maurine Schlag: David L. Clapp, Cheryl Clark, Baron & Robbie Smith, Howard & Carolyn Fort, Jacqueline Bishop, Mary Jane Walker & Family, Alleta Purvis, Mr. & Mrs. Ned Azdell, Vivian Updyke, Donald & Joyce Harter, William Gastler, Mae Fennewald, Martha & Hagan Bergerson, Mildred Baker, Susan Paden

In memory of Ernest Williamson: Dora Heath, Pauline Williamson

In memory of William Davis: Cheryl Clark

MVH EMPLOYEE CORNER

Charlotte "C.W." Wolhbold, C.N.A., was selected as the Employee of the Month for August 2006. She was nominated for her positive attitude, dependability and dedication to her job. C.W. is a wonderful person and always goes the extra mile to take care of the residents and everyone around her.. She was recognized at a reception on August 4, 2006 at the facility. At the time, she received a certificate of appreciation, a \$25 check, a certificate for a day off with pay and her name was placed on the plaque and hung in the employee break room for the month. ***Congratulations, C.W.!***

Teresa Clay, RN, 1st Floor Unit Manager, was selected as the Employee of the Month for September 2006. Teresa was nominated for her positive attitude toward residents and staff, her dependability and dedication to her job. She is a true team member making sure the residents and staff are always in her best interest. Teresa was recognized at a reception on August 30, 2006 at which time she received a certificate of appreciation, a \$25 check, a certificate for a day off with pay and her name was placed on the plaque along with her photo and displayed in the employee break room for the month. ***Congratulations, Teresa!***

It's a Girl! Sydney Lynelle Wages was born August 8, 2006 at 6:59 a.m. She weighed 6 lbs. 2 oz. and was 18 inches long. The proud parents are Jessica Jennings (C.N.A. on day shift) and Roger Wages. ***Congratulations Jessica & Roger!***

Marisa Flowers, Timekeeper, is the proud grandmother of MaKayla Leiann Flowers. She was born August 24, 2006 weighing in at 6 lbs. 14 oz. She was 18.5 inches long! ***Congratulations, Marisa!***

The Staff Activity sponsored a Watermelon Feast during the month of August. Watermelon was enjoyed by staff and residents during the afternoon on the new front patio. Everyone had a chance to guess the weight of a large watermelon (which had been cut on the bottom and part removed). The melon weighed 24.5 lbs. and Joe Secrease, Maintenance Worker, guessed 24 lbs. A seed spitting contest was also held. Travis Ankrom, C.N.A., spit the seed the longest distance and Teresa Ames, Director of Environmental Services, spit the seed with the best form. ***Congratulations to all the winners!***

EMPLOYEE BIRTHDAYS

Employee Update As of September 11, 2006

Daniel Potter, CW I	08/07
Elizabeth Nichols, CW I	08/16
Karen Williamson, DCA	08/23
Cynthia Tice, DCA	08/28
Jenna Bates, FSH I	09/05
Nicole Stone, CCWA I	09/11

October

JoAnn Miller	10/05
Sheryl Lovelace	10/06
Jody Todd	10/10
Virginia Horton	10/12
Johnetta Morton	10/13
Barbara Dowell	10/14
Beverly Boyle	10/16
Chris Peak	10/18
Tonya Dunlap	10/21
Tina Clay	10/21
Peggie Kriwiel	10/23
Brandin Bise	10/23
Karen Hurst	10/26
Sara Cuno	10/27
Kelley Guile	10/31



November

Danny Schlatt	11/01
Shirley Burle	11/03
Whitney Tarrants	11/06
Linda Baldwin	11/06
Linda Christian	11/07
Judy Henke	11/07
Donna Meadows	11/08
Daniel Potter	11/09
Jerri Long	11/12
Joe Secrease	11/13
Peggy Barjenbruch	11/21
Judy Martin	11/30
Marisa Flowers	11/30

WELCOME TO BOTH OF YOU!

**Missouri Veterans Commission and
Department of Public Safety
Employee of the Month Announcements**

Tonie Staples, RN V for the St. Louis Veterans' Home was selected as the Missouri Veterans Commission August 2006 Employee of the Month. Tonie was recognized for her willingness to go above and beyond what is required of her position to insure that our residents receive the best possible care which allows for their continued enhanced quality of life. Tonie recently took an important leadership role in assuring continuity of nursing care during a four-day power outage at the St. Louis facility. **Congratulations, Tonie!**

Charles Cyrus, Groundskeeper I for the St. James Veterans' Home was selected as the Missouri Veterans Commission September 2006 Employee of the Month. Charles was recognized for his hardwork and dedication to the appearance of the St. James Veterans' Home Grounds and Cemetery. His attention to detail and meticulous manner encourages our residents to enjoy being outside and displays great honor for the Cemetery. **Congratulations, Charles!**

We Need Everyone's Help to Support Alzheimer's Week
Submitted by: Cheryl Clark, 2nd floor Activity Coordinator

On October 2-6 we have scheduled Alzheimer's Week for M.V.H. I have planned events each day as followed in remembrance or symbolism for Alzheimer's for 2nd floor residents that week:

Monday, October 2

9:00 a.m. Gospel singing with Ginny Raney and refreshments to include purple donuts
12:45 p.m. Crafts

Tuesday, October 3

9:00 a.m. Exercise/Games in 2nd floor sunroom and refreshments to include purple cookies

Wednesday, October 4

9:00 a.m. Purple Bingo in Module 10 serving refreshments which consists of Grape Kool-aid
1:30 p.m. Music by Barb Green & Linda Griffin

Thursday, October 5

9:00 a.m. Bingo in 3rd floor dining room
1:30 p.m. Adopt-A-Vet in the outdoor pavilion with music and refreshments

Friday, October 6

9:00 a.m. Resident shopping at Wal-Mart
1:30 p.m. Purple Cow drinks in 3rd floor dining room
1:45 p.m. Music with Duttons in 3rd floor dining room

Alzheimer's Dinner/Auction at the Mexico Elks Lodge

5:00—6:00 p.m. Social

5:00—7:00 p.m. Entertainment by Laddonia Lost Boys

6:00—7:00 p.m. Dinner

7:00—Auction Begins

We are asking all M.V.H. staff and volunteers to assist with our annual "Adopt-A-Vet". We will assign a 2nd floor resident with a staff member or volunteer, you will share quality time with your resident by enjoying music, games and food in our outdoor pavilion off 1st floor. All M.V.H. residents are invited to attend the entertainment, music and games, also.

All family, friends, staff and volunteers are encouraged to attend and help support our Alzheimer's Dinner and Auction at the Elks Lodge on Friday evening. Any monetary donations and auction items are welcome and proceeds go to the Alzheimer's Association.

MVH Staff Phone Directory

The following is a list of phone/fax numbers with extension numbers to various managers & areas in the facility that might be helpful to you in calling:

Missouri Veterans' Home Phone # 573-581-1088
Missouri Veterans' Home Fax # 573-581-5356

Clinic Phone # 573-581-9630
Clinic Fax # 573-581-0315

Don Adams, Engineer	241
Susan Allen, Nursing Scheduler	252
Teresa Ames, Environmental Service	287
Linda Baldwin, Personnel Clerk	254
Marlene Benne, Ins. Coordinator	262
Cherie Bledsoe-Sutton, Adm. Coord.	253
Doris Britton, Physical Therapy	259
Cheryl Clark, 2nd Floor Special Care	273
Teresa Clay, 1st Floor Unit Manager	291
Stacy Duncan, Director of Social Services	265
Eric Endsley, Assistant Administrator	283
Jeanie Farnen, CIT	255
Mae Fennewald, Accounting	256
Marisa Flowers, Timekeeper	250
Ken Gore, Veterans Service Officer	258
Lansa Johnson, Director of Medical Records	264
Kathy Kuda, Medical Secretary	260
Eva Leake, 3rd Floor Unit Manager	267
Kathy McCluggage, Account Clerk	257
Matthias McManus, Barber	276
Susan Paden, Volunteer Services	286
Darrin Reimann, Rec Therapist	271
Patrick Stevenson, DON	263
Nicole Stone, Social Services	272
Cheryl Tolbert, Administrator	251
Gary Westerman, Supply Manager	279
Ronda Whelan, Storekeeper Asst.	280
Carolyn Widaman, 2nd Floor Unit Manager	289
Kathy Winkelman, Activity Asst.	295
Sandy Young, Food Service Manager	278

1st Floor	221
2nd Floor	222
3rd Floor	223

CENSUS

WW II	91
Korean	33
Vietnam	15
Peacetime	9

Renovation Project

We have begun replacing the flooring on the 1st floor. This project will require moving all the residents from a module area, replacing the flooring and moving on to the next module, so you will see many changes during this renovation period. We are sorry for any inconvenience this may cause.



Lasagna Dinner, Auction & Entertainment

Hosted by:

**Missouri Veterans' Home - Mexico
&
Elks Lodge #919**

Friday, October 6, 2006
Mexico Elks Lodge, Hwy JJ, Mexico, MO

**5-6 Social Hour 6-7 Dinner
7-8 Auction**

Tickets \$7.50

Proceeds benefit the Alzheimer's Association

For additional information contact
Stacy Duncan (573)581-1088 x265

Grandpa's Hands

Submitted by: Pearl Hilkemeyer, C.N.A.

This is good; I'll never look at my hands the same!

Grandpa, some ninety plus years, sat feebly on the patio bench. He didn't move, just sat with his head down staring at his hands. When I sat down beside him he didn't acknowledge my presence and the longer I sat I wondered if he was OK. Finally, not really wanting to disturb him but wanting to check on him at the same time, I asked him if he was OK.

He raised his head and looked at me and smiled. "Yes, I'm fine, thank you for asking," he said in a clear strong voice.

"I didn't mean to disturb you, Grandpa, but you were just sitting here staring at your hands and I wanted to make sure you were OK," I explained to him.

"Have you ever looked at your hands," he asked. "I mean really looked at your hands?"

I slowly opened my hands and stared down at them. I turned them over, palms up and then palms down. No, I guess I had never really looked at my hands as I tried to figure out the point he was making.

Grandpa smiled and related this story:

"Stop and think for a moment about the hands you have, how they have served you well throughout your years. These hands, though wrinkled, shriveled and weak have been the tools I have used all my life to reach out and grab and embrace life. They braced and caught my fall when as a toddler I crashed upon the floor. They put food in my mouth and clothes on my back.

As a child my Mother taught me to fold them in prayer. They tied my shoes and pulled on my boots. They held my rifle and wiped my tears when I went off to war. They have been dirty, scraped and raw, swollen and bent. They were uneasy and clumsy when I tried to hold my newborn son. Decorated with my wedding band they showed the world that I was married and loved someone special. They wrote the letter home and trembled and shook when I buried my Parents and Spouse and walked my Daughter down the aisle.

Yet, they were strong and sure when I dug my buddy out of a foxhole and lifted a plow off of my best friend's foot. They have held children, consoled neighbors, and shook in fists of anger when I didn't understand. They have covered my face, combed my hair, and washed and cleansed the rest of my body. They have been sticky and wet, bent and broken, dried and raw.

And to this day when not much of anything else of me works real well these hands hold me up, lay me down, and again continue to fold in prayer. These hands are the mark of where I've been and the ruggedness of my life. But more importantly it will be these hands that God will reach out and take when he leads me home.

GOLF TOURNAMENT RESULTS

The Mexico Veterans Home Assistance League would like to thank everyone that supported the Annual Golf Tournament in August. We had a wonderful day! There were 36 teams, 17 hole sponsors, 15 cart sponsors, 2—\$500 sponsors and 3—\$250 sponsors. We made almost \$8000 from the event which will go into the Endowment Fund and provide for the future of our Veterans.

Next years tournament has been set for August 11, 2007 at Arthur Hills Golf Course. Mark your calendar.

Again, thanks!

